

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1926

STADIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP--VISIT TO RIO

1. HAVING IN MIND THE RIGORS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FOR HIS FULL FOUR-COUNTRY TRIP, THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CONCERNS HE WILL CONSTANTLY BE SEIZED WITH NO MATTER WHERE HE IS, AND HIS VERY UNDERTANDABLE (TO US) DESIRE TO UNWIND A BIT BEFORE GOING ON TO AFRICA, THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN RIO NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THAT AN OPPORTUNITY EXISTS DURING THE RIO VISIT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE A VERY POSITIVE AND, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, INDELIBLE IMPRESSION ON BRAZIL AND ITS PEOPLE.

2. WHILE BRASILIA IS INDEED THE OFFICIAL CAPITAL AND IN FACT DECISION-MAKING CENTER OF BRASIL, RIO IS STILL THE POPULAR AND CULTURAL CAPITAL AND SYMBOLIZES MOST ASPECTS OF THE BRAZILIAN SCENE OF WHICH BRAZILIANS ARE TRADITIONALLY PROUD: THE COUNTRY'S PHYSICAL BEAUTY, WIT, HUMOR, MUSIC, CULTURAL AND ETHNIC ASSIMILATION, ETC. PRESIDENTS ROOSEVELT IN 1933, TRUMAN IN 1947, AND EISENHOWER IN 1959 VISITED RIO DURING THEIR TERMS OF OFFICE. THE LATTER VISIT IS STILL REMEMBERED
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FONDLY BY MANY BRAZILIANS BECAUSE OF THE OPEN FRIENDLINESS WHICH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER DISPLAYED IN HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES. PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT WILL BE THE FIRST BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN ALMOST TWENTY YEARS. RIO HOPES AND EXPECTS TO SEE HIM AND TO BE EXPOSED TO HIS OWN WARM AND ENGAGING PERSONALITY-- AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY WERE TO VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ LAST NOVEMBER. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING

WAYS IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT COULD BEST MEET AND EXPLOIT THESE EXPECTATIONS, AND CONCURRENTLY ACCOMPLISH SOME OF HIS OWN OBJECTIVES--PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND PERSONAL RELAXATION.

3. WE THUS SUBMIT FOR WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS, WHICH WE WOULD HOPE TO PURSUE WITH THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAMS:

A) ACCEPTANCE OF CONGEN RIO'S STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE--AT THE EXPENSE OF ONLY A FEW MORE MINUTES OF DRIVING TIME--DRIVE FROM THE AIRPORT UP HISTORIC AVENIDE RIO BRANCO, AROUND THE BAY AND THROUGH COPACABANA TO THE PRESIDENT'S LODGING. IF SECURITY WOULD PERMIT, THE PRESIDENT AND MRS CARTER MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF WALKING A BLOCK OR TWO ON AVEXIDA RIO BRANCO AT A POINT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE ADVANCE TEAMS (REMINISCENT OF HIS POST-INAUGURAL WALK IN WASHINGTON).

B) A BRIEF WREATH-LAYING STOP AT BRAZIL'S MONUMENT TO ITS UNKNOWN SOLDIER OF WORLD WAR IIN INCLUDING VERY BRIEF REMARKS APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION, I\$E., EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT RIO, WHICH SYMBOLIZES ALL OF THE BEST IN BRAZIL, AND TO PAY HOMAGE TO BRAZIL'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON EFFORT WITH US AND THE OTHER ALLIES IN A WAR TO SAFXGUARD DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN FREEDOM. THE MONUMENT IS ON THE ROUTE THE MOTORCADE WOULD TAKE IF SUGGESTION (A) WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCEPTED. (WE RECOGNIZE THAT WA HAD PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE EVE OF THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964 REVOLUTION AND MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED--PARA 8, BRASILIA 1411. WE BELIEVEN HOWEVER, THAT POTENTIAL MISINTERPRETXTION COULD BE NEUTRALIZED IF THE PRESIDENT WERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OPPORTUNITY THE OCCASION WOULD PRESENT BY MAKING BRIEF REMARKS ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED.LM

C) ATTENDENCE AT A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SPECTACULAR BEIJA-FLOR (HUMMINGBIRD) SAMB SCHOOL, WHICH HAS TAKER FIRST PLACE IN RIO'S CARNIVAL PARADES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. SAMBA IS STILL THE MAXIMUM EXPRESSION OF POPULAR CULTURE IN BRAZIL, AND THE PERFORMINT GROUP INCLUDES BLACKS, WHITES AND INTERMEDIATE SHADES, SHAPES AND SIZES, AND IN AGE THEY RANGE FROM SMALL CHILDREN TO SEPTUAGENARIANS. THEY COME FROM AND ARE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF RIO'S WORKING CLASS, WHICH HEIGHTENS THE BROAD PUBLICRELATIONS IMPACT OF SUCH PERFORMANCES. TIMING AND LOCATION WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE ADVANCE TEAMS.

D) A 60-90 MINUTE MEETING WITH A GROUP OF CAREFULLY SELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF INFORMED BRAZILIAN OPINION, TO INCLUDE CARDINALS ARNS AND SALLES AND OTHERS FROM RIO AND SAO PAULO, I.E., SOME VERSION OF OUR OPTION A IN BRASILIA

1411. IN THIS WAY, THE PRESIDENT COULD BOTH ACCOMPLISH HIS OBJECTIVE OF SERIOUSLY DISCUSSING HUMAN RIGHTS WITH CARDINAL ARNS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DILUTING THE IMPACT ON THE GOB OF SUCH A MEETING BY: 1) ENGAGING IN FRANK EXCHANGE WITH OTHER LEADING BRAZILIAN FIGURES OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT, AND 2) COINCIDENTALLY PAYING HOMAGE TO RIO'S INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES BY RECEIVING SOME OF ITS LEADING REPRESENTATIVES.

4. WE WELCOME WASHINGTON'S VIEWS.
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